NEWSLETTER
Volume 17 – Issue 20
Monday 8th December, 2014

Principal
Gerard Lewis
Admin Officer
Erica Nastopoulos
Office Assistance
Robbie Bartlett & Janelle Adams

Teachera
Year PB
Gabrielle Berends
Year 1J
Therese John
Year 2C
Matt Callery
Year 3F
Ben Fahey
Year 4M
Maureen McDonald
Year 5T
Freda Tahtouh
Year 6M
Samantha Malin
Library
Anna Borella
Phys Ed (Junior)
Chris Kidman
Support
Eleanor Colaneri (Years 3F & 20)
Support
Catherine LeHunt (Year 1J & 4M)
Library Tech
Dianne Pavlou
Number Intervention
Anna Side

Parish Priest
Fr Barry Moran

Year PM
Laura Leung
Year 10
Brigitte O'Shea
Year 20
Claire O'Dowd
Year 3R
Simon Raines
Year 4S
Stephanie Schultz
Year 6C
Ruth Crispin
Reading Recovery
Paula Incretolli
Italian
Carmela Vozzo
Phys Ed (Senior)
Matt Ottobre
Support
Jane Davy (Year Prep & 5T)
Support
Daniela Borgese (Year 6C)
Art in Residence
Robbie Bartlett

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday 10th December
Year Prep Excursion – Myer Christmas Windows & Alma Park

Thursday 11th December
Carols & Disco (6pm – 8:15pm)

Friday 12th December
Pupil Free Day

Monday 15th December
Year 1 & 2 Excursion – Village Cinemas (Jam Factory)

Monday 15th December
Year 6 Graduation Mass

Tuesday 16th December
Year 6 Graduation Dinner

Wednesday 17th December
Year 6 Celebration Day

Thursday 18th December
End of School Year - Student’s breakup at 1pm
After Care is available until 6pm, booking is essential

2015 Term 1 Commences
Thursday 29th January 2015
School Begins 8:55am

From the Deputy Principal’s Desk:

Safe Car Travel
Please be careful when travelling in Westbury Street and around the Senior Campus. Due to building works at CBC, large trucks will be entering through the Senior Campus grounds. Please make sure for the safety of all children that you follow the parking and drop off rules and advise your children to be careful.

St Mary’s Carols and Disco
On Thursday 11th December a whole school Carols, picnic and disco night has been organised to commence at 6.00pm in the Church. The Disco (Year 4 classroom) and Picnic (Basketball Court) will start at 7:00pm and conclude at 8:15pm.

Pupil Free Day
A reminder that Friday 12th December is a Pupil Free Day.

Year 6 Graduation
On Monday 15th December we celebrate the Year 6 Graduation. The Liturgy will commence at 6:00pm. This will be a great opportunity for the whole school to celebrate the Year 6 Graduation.
Congratulations
Congratulations to Gigi Maccagnini who recently ran second in the 800m Australian Champions in Tasmania. Well done Gigi.

Sporting Equipment
Thank you to the Parents and Friends Association who recently donated sporting equipment to each classroom to the value of $1,100. This equipment will enable each class to have their own sporting gear and take coordination of it.

Playground Congestion
This year we have trialled two different approaches to help alleviate the number of children on the Junior playground at Recess time. In both instances we have trialled using the Computer Laboratory and Library. We are still trying to find the right solution to ensure that child safety is at the forefront of our decision. In 2015 we look forward to ensuring that the children as a school can play together. We thank you for your support and patience with this issue as we are endeavouring to make the best decision for the safety and health of all children. Hopefully in Term 1, 2015 we will have “worked out” the best decision on this issue.

Christmas Eve Parish Mass (Wednesday 24th December)
Our next Parish Mass will be on Wednesday 24th December at 7.00pm. All families are invited to attend.

2015 Classes
I am happy to announce the following teachers, classes and structures for 2015

Foundation F  Jacquie Fleming
Foundation T  Freda Tahtouh
Year 1J  Therese John
Year 1O  Brigitte O'Shea
Year 2B  Gabrielle Berends
Year 2M  Kate Morgan
Year 3F  Ben Fahey
Year 3R  Simon Raines
Year 4M  Maureen McDonald
Year 4S  Stephanie Schultz
Year 5B  Claire Butson
Year 5M  Samantha Malin
Year 6  TBA

Administration Officer (Mon -Thurs)  Erica Nastopoulos
Administration Support  Robbie Bartlett / Janelle Adams
Reading Recovery  Paula Incretoelli
Number Intervention  Anna Side
Library  Anna Borella
Library Support (Tues - Wed)  Dianne Pavlou
Italian  Carmel Vozzo
Physical Education (P-2)  Christine Kidman
Physical Education (3-6)  Matt Ottobre
Teacher Support  Robbie Bartlett/Dianne Pavlou
Replacement Teachers -

Piano  Scott Waterson
Guitar (Thurs)  Tom Turner

We welcome Jacquie Fleming, Kate Morgan and Claire Butson next year and hope that they have a fabulous year. We congratulate Claire O'Dowd who has been appointed classroom teacher and Education in Faith Leader at St Joseph's Elsternwick. We thank Matt Callery and Ruth Crispin for their contribution to St Mary's as they take time away from teaching to travel overseas. The parish school community will miss Claire, Matt and Ruth next year.

I hope you have an enjoyable week.

Gerard Lewis
Principal
SCHOOL FEES
A reminder that all school fees must be finalised as soon as possible. If you have any concerns please don’t hesitate to contact Erica in the office.

RE NEWS – PRAYER
Today is a special day for us; it is the day we celebrate as a parish that is named in Mary’s honour. We celebrate our belief that Mary was full of God’s grace from the first moment of her life. God gave Mary this honour because she would be invited to be the mother of Jesus our Saviour.

To be chosen by God for a particular task is an amazing thing. That is why we honour Mary, the one chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. Yet we believe that each of us is chosen by God in particular and important ways, and each of us is given gifts and talents by God to share with the world. One of the tremendous responsibilities of parenting is helping our children determine the gifts and talents they have to share with others to serve the reign of God.

As a family, identify some of the gifts and talents that God has given each person in the family. Talk about the ways in which these gifts and talents might be used in the service of others. Recall that Mary was given a special task by God. Read together today’s Gospel, Luke 1:26-38. Reflect upon Mary’s humble response to God’s call. Pray as a family that each person will be like Mary and respond to God with a resounding yes by using their gifts and talents to serve others in both large and small ways. Conclude by praying together the Hail Mary, or perhaps pray a decade of the Rosary, reflecting upon the Joyful Mystery, the Annunciation.

Claire O’Dowd - Religious Education Leader

LITERACY NEWS
It’s that time of the year to celebrate our wonderful results in Literacy and reflect on the improvements made by all the students at St. Mary’s. We would not be able to achieve such successes without the support of Parent Helpers in the classrooms. Literacy programs, especially in the junior years, would not be able to run so smoothly if not for the time and commitment given by parents/carers. On behalf of the school I extend a big thank you to you all and hope to see you, and hopefully some new recruits, next year when we do it all over again. I hope you have enjoyed the opportunity to work in classrooms assisting students and teachers in their literacy programs.

Our Home Reading Program will finish on Friday 12th December so could all books be returned. Thank you for hearing your children read every night, for reading to them and for reading with them. I strongly encourage your children to continue reading over the Summer holidays and engage in activities which have a beneficial impact on learning. Remember to always make reading a happy time! I also would encourage your children to write over the holidays. A holiday journal is a great way to keep those wonderful experiences and memories alive for years to come. Most importantly have a good rest and enjoy the relaxing activities of Summer. Happy Holidays to everyone and Thank you!

Paula Incretolli - Literacy Leader/Reading Recovery Teacher
LIBRARY NEWS

Borrowing
All borrowing has ceased and this week will be the last library lesson for all classes this year. We need to have all resources in before the end of the year for stocktake. Please check all your bookshelves etc. for any library books and return this week.

Thank you, Anna Borella (Librarian)

STUDENT WELLBEING

Christmas Hampers
This Advent the SRC children are leading their grades in either fund raising or bringing in food items to make Christmas Hampers for the needy people of St. Kilda. Our local St Vincent de Paul's will distribute these hampers for us. Below is what each grade has decided to do to get the food items to make the hampers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prep B</td>
<td>Bonbon, non-perishable food items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prep M</td>
<td>Bonbon, non-perishable food items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1J</td>
<td>Cake Stall Tuesday 9th Dec Whole school welcome Items 50c each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1O</td>
<td>Cookie Stall Thurs 11th Dec Whole school welcome Items 50c each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2O</td>
<td>Non-perishable foods/toys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2C</td>
<td>Non-perishable foods/toys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3R</td>
<td>Christmas Treats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3F</td>
<td>Breakfast items baskets needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4’s</td>
<td>Essential items/non-perishable foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Fund raising Wear a touch of yellow Gold coin donations Date to be announced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6M</td>
<td>Non-perishable foods/toys</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6C</td>
<td>Non-perishable foods/toys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A little reflection from Leunig
Santa, Santa in your sleigh,
Come and take my toys away
While I’m sleeping in my cot
Visit me and take the lot.

Santa, Santa set me free,
Clear an open space for me;
Me and all the girls and boys
Buried under heaps of toys.

Santa, Santa with your sack,
Come and take some plastic back;
Take it back and in its place,
Leave a little breathing space.

Christmas is such a special time, and we all get carried away with the magic that this time of year brings. Reflect with your children about the importance of the giving rather than the receiving. Supporting St Vincent de Paul in creating these hampers is one way we can truly brighten Christmas for a family who is less fortunate than ourselves. I wish you a beautiful Christmas filled with happiness and love.

Therese John – Student Wellbeing Leader

LOST PROPERTY
Reminder please check the basket for any lost items of clothing.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS
School holiday programs are available from the school office foyer.

ST MARY’S PARISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION TIMETABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 16th Dec</td>
<td>12:30pm</td>
<td>Healing Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24th Dec</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
<td>Family Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:30pm</td>
<td>Christmas Carols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00am</td>
<td>Midnight Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th Dec</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
<td>Christmas Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30am</td>
<td>Christmas Mass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No Evening Mass on Christmas Day

If anyone is interested to join the Christmas Choir group, there is a rehearsal this Wednesday at 6pm in the Church.
St Mary's Parish Christmas Mass

Our St Mary’s Parish Christmas Mass is on

Wednesday 24th December at 7pm.

All families are invited to attend this special children’s Mass.

Children are invited to come dressed as kings, angels or shepherds

(sheep and goats are okay too).

I am also putting the call out for children volunteers to read and act the parts for Mary and some shepherds (we need three). If your child would like to take part, please come and see Miss O’Dowd so I can take your name down. There will be a rehearsal with Bernadette Milne (from the Parish) during school hours in the last week of school.

Thank you for your cooperation and we hope to see you all there.

Extend OSHC at St Mary’s - Primary School

SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAM
AT A LOCATION NEAR YOU
Booking deadlines apply and excursions fill fast.
Book now to avoid disappointment at extend.com.au.
All holiday program are open to primary school aged children from the wider community.

ONLINE BOOKINGS: extend.com.au CALL OUR OFFICE: 1300 366 437

PRAHRAN COMMUNITY SPORTS PROGRAM

This email provides an update on the following events within our Prahran community sports program:

A. TPCC Netball camp – December 2014
B. TPCC Jellis Craig (Armadale) cricket camp – December 2014
C. Kickstart soccer camp – December 2014

If you do not wish to receive these emails in future please advise – you have received them because your child has attended a sporting event supported by TPCC including Kickstart soccer, TPCC community sport camps, Friday Futsal, Toorak Prahran Cricket

A. TPCC Netball camp – 6 to 14 year olds - December 2014
   Registrations are now open – please follow this link to obtain more information and register – all registrations are on line – please contact by return email if you do not have a credit card: Please follow attached link to register: TPCC netball camp registrations

B. TPCC Cricket camps – 4 year old to 15 years – December 2014
   Registrations are now open – please follow this link to obtain more information and register – all registrations are on line – please contact by return email if you do not have a credit card: Please follow attached link to register: TPCC cricket camp registrations

C. Kickstart soccer camp – 5 to 12 year olds - December 2014
   Registrations are now open – please follow this link to obtain more information and register – all registrations are on line. Please follow attached link to register: www.trybooking.com
Parent & Friends Committee Update

P & F Mission Statement
Encouraging and strengthening the school community and coordinating social and fundraising events for additional educational resources for our children.

Our final P & F Update for 2014!
What a successful fundraising year it’s been and we could not have accomplished that without your support. The P & F Committee would like to extend our sincere thanks to the St Mary’s Primary School community who have generously donated to the P & F Committee helping us to exceed the P & F fundraising goal for 2014.

Thank you to our 2014 Class Reps
The fundraising successes of this year are a direct result of the enthusiastic work put in by our thirteen Class Reps who coordinated their Year P & F events.

Class Reps for 2014
Helen Wong, Laura Bunn & Christine McCorkell – Year Prep
Sarah Hitchcock & Nicole Kennedy – Year 1
Adele Weisz & Mary Brown – Year 2
Narelle Ryan and Kath Dolphin – Year 3
Elly Howarth & Jeff Barnes – Year 4
Maria Dasopatis – Year 5
Lucy Sparke – Year 6

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your participation and generous donation your time to helping the P & F achieve its mission and fundraising goals for 2014 which included:
1. Purchasing hand held devices (for example iPads, tablets) for students
2. Improving the school’s wireless network to accommodate the hand held devices
3. Supporting the Year 6 Graduation
4. Contributing to the use of the parish hall

P & F Committee Presentations
On Monday 8th December 2014 at assembly the P & F Committee will present the sports equipment donation valued at $1144 to the Sport Captains of St Mary’s.
On Monday 15th December 2014 at assembly the P & F Committee will present our donation of $15,000 to the school.

Final Fundraising Events for 2014
Thank you to those parents / guardians who purchased one of Phillippa’s delicious Xmas Puddings. We sold 22 puddings which raised $339 directly to the P & F fund. Thank you once again to Phillippa for her ongoing and generous support throughout 2014.

Thank you to Bakers Delight Balaclava for contributing 10% of every purchase made by St Mary Primary School families to our fundraising efforts. We will be finding out how much was raised towards the end of Term 4. Once we know, we will publish it in the next newsletter in 2015.

Year 6 Graduation Update
The Year 6 Graduation Committee; Tricia Crisostomos, Primrose Tour, Noeline Ianchello, Koulas Stoupis, Maryann Macagnini, Lisa Amad, Natasha Wigham, Fiona Zaptantis, Melissa Purcell, Maria Barba, Audrey Minogue and Peta McLaughlin worked solidly in 2014 coordinating the fundraising efforts for the Year 6 Graduation. The Graduation Committee reached their fundraising goal of $5000, of which $3,474.25 was raised from P & F events, the Sports Carnival Sausage sizzle and the two Year 6 Cakes Stalls. On behalf of the P & F Committee we would like to congratulate the Year 6 Graduation committee on achieving such a great fundraising result.
To all the Year 6 students we wish you well as you prepare for your onward journey beyond St Mary’s Primary School. It is always hard to say goodbye but our prayers are with you as you embrace this next challenge and chapter of your life.

An old Irish blessing to wish you on your way...

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the Sun shine warm upon your face
And the rain fall soft upon your fields
And until we meet again
May God hold you in the palm of his hand
A Message from the Year 6 Graduation Committee

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Year 6 parents for the time and effort that was put into organising and supporting St Marys 2014 Year 6 Graduates; a job well done. We have reached our goal and we are looking forward to having a great fun time. The kids are super excited to celebrate their time at St Marys. An extra special thanks to Mr Lewis for all his support during the year and to the St Marys community for supporting our fundraising events. Finally thank you to the St Marys P & F Committee for their support, donation towards our Graduation fundraising goal and for donating the children’s farewell gifts – a St Mary’s Pennant (see picture above). They look amazing!

School Wide Event Group (SWEG) Update

Planning is well under way for next year’s main Social and Fundraising night. SWEG would love to build on the Junofest Trivia night in 2015 by making some innovative changes to the format. We will keep you posted on our ideas and will at some point in 2015 be asking for supporters to share the load.

For now and as part of our early planning for the Trivia night we would like to canvas the school community for some suggestions. We thought ‘Nails’ did a fabulous job at this year’s hugely successful Junofest, but we would like a pool of hosts to draw from if possible. Does any school community member know from personal experience or have knowledge of a fabulous trivia host that you would recommend? If so can you please forward your recommendations to the P&F Management Committee so they can forward on directly to the SWEG team.

In the meantime please put **Friday 19 June 2015** in your diary for the St Mary’s big fundraising school wide event.

Class Reps for 2015

We would like to thank those parents/guardians who have already nominated themselves to be a Class Rep in 2015. If you are considering nominating yourself for being a Class Rep in 2015 we are still looking for Class Rep volunteers. Please let either your current Class Rep or the P & F Management Committee know your intentions before the end of Term 4. This assists us in planning for 2015 and your nominations now will be gratefully appreciated.

Your Feedback For 2014

To ensure the P & F Committee continues to run a successful fundraising campaign we are always keen to receive feedback on how you think we can improve P&F activities and operations. Please feel free to contact the P & F Management Committee either by speaking to Bernie Curtis and or George Dellas directly or you can email them at bernie@curtis.org.au and or george@in-focus.com.au.

P & F Calendar of Events for Term 4:

*The Year 2 P & F School Disco Event is scheduled for Thursday 11th December 2014* after the School Carols night at St Mary’s Church. The disco will take place in the Year 4 Classroom while the parents can bring a picnic dinner to enjoy on the school grounds (outside the Berchmans centre).

“Welcome” Drinks for 2015

Thanks to the suggestion of our Principal, Gerard Lewis, the P & F Committee will be hosting a “Welcome” Drinks night on **Friday 27th February 2015** at the Dick Whittington, Chapel Street. Watch this space for more details in the New Year! In the meantime mark your diaries and get ready to get our school year off to an exciting start with this great new community event.

The P & F Committee wish you all a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a safe and happy summer holiday.

We look forward to building on this year’s fantastic achievements and working with you all in 2015.

2014 Fundraising Goal $15,000

The Official Total Raised

$21,446.30

Thank you for all your support
St Mary's Parish

Parish Priest - Father Barry Moran
Pastoral Worker - Bernadette Milne
Secretaries - Antonia Attard, Catherine Carolan
Parish Manager - Julie Purdey

Times of Masses:
- Sunday: Mass 9.00am, 10.30am, 5.30pm
- Weekdays: Mass or Morning Prayer - 9.15am
- Saturday: Mass or Morning Prayer - 8.30am
- Reconciliation: Saturday - following Prayer or Mass

Feast days this week: Friday 13 December St Lucy

Readings Next Sunday
- Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Hymns
- 9.00am and 5.30pm
- Entrance 285
- Presentation of the Gifts O Sanctissima
- Eucharistic Acclamation Christ has... Communion 544
- Recessional 549

Diary
- Note: No Cuppa in the Pottery Room today due to the Celebrations for the Feastday after 10.30am Mass
- St Vincent de Paul - 2nd Tues. of the Month - 7.00 p.m. - Lounge****

Parish Events

Season of Advent
Advent for Families sheet.
Please take a copy home today.

Thanksgiving

Christmas Choir Practice in St Mary's Church, Wednesday 10 December 6.00pm.
All those wishing to participate are most welcome.

PARISH FEAST DAY today after 10.30am
Mass all are welcome to gather and enjoy a BYO picnic lunch on the Presbytery lawn.

Please pray for the Recently deceased Francesca Schmidt, Cliff Broderick, Gwen Walker, and for Felicetta Russo and Michele Russo and Stuart Rattle whose anniversaries we remember today.

Parish Anointing Mass
Tuesday 16th December at St Mary's Church 12.30pm. any parishioner requiring transport – and/or those willing and able to assist with car please ring Bernadette at presbytery 95107744

Parish Penitential Service
Tuesday 16th December at 7.00pm.
All parishioners welcome to attend.

Readers/Commentators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>7th Dec.</th>
<th>14th Dec.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00 a.m.</td>
<td>L Marie Emmitt</td>
<td>L Sr. Diana Gabel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C Volunteer</td>
<td>C Volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>L Donna Martin</td>
<td>L Fatima D'Cruz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C Justin Samy</td>
<td>C Volunteer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.30 p.m.</td>
<td>L Volunteer</td>
<td>L Andrew Higgins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C Volunteer</td>
<td>C Gus Higgins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Ministers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Chloe Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Carol Tomic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.30 p.m.</td>
<td>Steven Berton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcoming

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.00 a.m.</td>
<td>Clare Lonergan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30 a.m.</td>
<td>Bernadette Roberts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.30 p.m.</td>
<td>Volunteer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Christmas/New Year Rosters
If you are going to be here over Christmas and the New Year and are able to assist, please write your name on the Rosters on Small chapel window.

Vigil Christmas Mass 24th Dec. 2014
7.00pm Mass will be a family/children elderly Mass. All children attending are invited to dress as angels, shepherds or kings.

Vinnies report September-November: St Mary's St Vincent de Paul members visited 192 adults and 50 children and distributed $12,700 in food vouchers, $250 in rent relief, $40 Myki cards, as well as furniture from Vinnie Stores. The conference is grateful for the assistance given by parishioners. New members*** are needed, for information contact Nancy 9527 1028.

Holy Trinity- St Nicolas Russian Catholic Community Melbourne. Cnr Hotham and Inkerman Streets, East St Kilda. 7.00pm Vespers and the Divine Liturgy of St Basil followed by light supper 6th January following the Julian Calendar. All welcome.

Next Sunday – Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading
Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

Second Reading
2 Peter 3:8-14
There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation
Lk 3:4, 6
Alleluia, alleluia!
The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm
Ps 84:9-14
R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.